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REMARKS

The present Response is submitted in reply to the official action mailed November 10, 2004.

Claims 8-14 are pending in the present Application and the Examiner rejects claims 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The rejected claims are accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections. The entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejections and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the raised rejections and that while claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claims 9-14 would also be allowable if rewritten to overcome the raised rejections and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, and in addition to the above noted amendments to the claims to meet and overcome the grounds for rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claims 9 and 13 are rewritten in independent form and include the essential limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In this regard, it is noted that claims 10, 11 and 12 depend from amended claim 8 and that claim 14 depends from claim 13, so that claims 10, 11, 12 and 14 are thereby allowable due to the dependency from allowable independent claims. The Applicant therefore believes that claims 8-14 are now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all of the raised rejections of the claims.

With respect to the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure for not listing serial numbers and filing dates of all related applications on the first page of the specification, the Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to the Preliminary Amendment filed on

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October 17, 2003 entering the priority claim to German Application Serial No. 102 55 414.5 filed November 28, 2002 in the [002] paragraph of the specification, but not the Abstract. No other priority claim is believed applicable. If the Applicant is incorrect, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate which other application(s) should be listed on page 1. Alternatively, if amendment of the Abstract of the Disclosure is required, please provide the undersigned with further clarification concerning the raised rejection.


If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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